

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 1. The supply of textiles in Czechoslovakia for the civilian population is governed by the rationing system. In addition to those textiles which are rationed, there is a free market in these goods, but the prices are so high that the average consumer is not able to afford them. The rationed textiles are scarce and of a very poor quality. The consumer has a very limited choice in the manner of disposing of his coupons.
- 2. The army has priority in obtaining textiles, and the quality of the goods is far higher than that available on the civilian market. The officer corps is supplied with uniforms of an excellent quality of wool; their shirts and underwear are of equally good quality. Officers have a further advantage in that, although the government furnishes them their uniforms and other clothing free, they still receive the normal amount of clothing coupons.
- 3. Linen is used in the following items of Czech army equipment: bed linen (sheets, mattresses, pillow cases), uniform linings, summer fatigue uniforms, underwear, shirts, handkerchiefs, foot wrappers, etc, towels, haversacks, gas mask containers, tents, SMG ammunition containers, tarpaulins for vehicles, tanks, guns, horse wagons and water buckets.
- 4. The supply of leather in the CSR is likewise insufficient. The lack of leather is especially noticeable in consumer goods such as brief cases, bags, suitcases, belts, shoes, etc. To meet the demand, leather substitutes such as various kinds of oilcloth are being used. The footwear which can be obtained for the exchange of coupons, usually has rubber soles. The only footwear available with leather soles is sold on the freemarket.

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